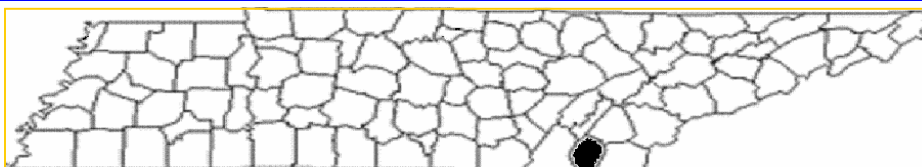


# The Status of Women in Bradley County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN BRADLEY COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	35.00	17
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,407	36
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	69.8%	64
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	45.5%	17
Female Unemployment Rate	6.2%	49
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	33.3%	9
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	39.00	28
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	21.4%	47
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	15.6%	17
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	73.9%	27
Female High School Dropout Rate	8.7%	67
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	90.1%	66
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	13.1%	17
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	8.1%	32
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	32.5	39

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Bradley County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## BRADLEY

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Women in Bradley County earn \$21,407 annually, \$14,000 less than the median household income for all employed individuals in the county.
- ◇ Bradley is in the top 20 counties for women's labor force participation rate (45.5%). Women comprise 45.8% of the county's labor force.
- ◇ Though only 5.0% of the total workforce are unemployed, 6.2% of females are unemployed.
- ◇ Bradley also ranks in the top 20 counties for percent of women in managerial or professional occupations (33.3%). Bradley County is home to fourteen Fortune 500 manufacturing companies.

### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Over 26 percent of the women in the county did not complete high school, and the current female dropout rate is almost 9 percent.
- ◇ Only 15.6% of Bradley County women have a four-year college degree even though both Lee University and Cleveland State Community College are located in the county.
- ◇ Of all households in Bradley County 10.9% are female-headed households with no husband present. 27.2% of those female-headed households live below poverty level.
- ◇ The percentage of women earning incomes below the poverty level in Bradley County (13.1%) almost triples that of Williamson County which leads the category with 5.4%.
- ◇ The Bradley County adolescent pregnancy rate (32.5 per 1000) is typical for the area with Polk County at 36.9, McMinn County at 31.9, Meigs County at 33.3 and Hamilton County at 35.2.
- ◇ Bradley County population is more than 50 percent female; however, of the 15 county commissioners only 3 are women.
- ◇ Only 21.4% of Bradley County businesses are owned by women even though women comprise 54.7% of estimated available labor in the county.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## BRADLEY

		<b>Bradley County</b>	<b>Rank of Bradley County</b>	<b>Highest Ranking County</b>
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$21,407	36	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	69.8%	64	Davidson: 82.1%

<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	45.5%	17	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	6.2%	49	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	33.3%	9	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	21.4%	47	Moore: 63.3%

<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	15.6%	17	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	73.9%	27	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	8.7%	67	Pickett: 0.0%

<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	90.1%	66	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	13.1%	17	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	8.1%	32	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	32.5	39	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Bradley County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties